

THE COVENANT:GOD'S ETERNAL STANDARDS

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We are looking forward during The Feast to The World Tomorrow. Everyone has their own standards ... but in The World Tomorrow we will have God's laws ... right standards ... God's Eternal Standards.

Jeremiah 31:31-35

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, **My covenant which they broke**, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.** No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Hebrews 8:6-13

" But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says:

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; **because they did not continue in My covenant**, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: **I will put My laws in their mind**

and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbour, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." (This covenant will be ratified in everlasting blood)
In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away."

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through **the blood of the everlasting covenant,** make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

God works through covenants. Generation after generation ... including the World Tomorrow. Jesus is the Messenger of The Covenant.

Malachi 3:1-3

"Behold, **I send My messenger,**
And he will prepare the way before Me.
And the Lord, whom you seek,
Will suddenly come to His temple,
Even the Messenger of the covenant, (Jesus)
In whom you delight.
Behold, He is coming,"
Says the Lord of hosts.
"But who can endure the day of His coming?
And who can stand when He appears?
For He is like a refiner's fire
And like launderers' soap.
He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;
He will purify the sons of Levi,

And purge them as gold and silver,
That they may offer to the Lord
An offering in righteousness."

What laws apply to us today ... and what will apply in the world to come ... The New Covenant?

Don't wear clothes of mixed fibres. Circumcision? Wearing tassels? Clean and unclean meats? The Sabbath? What about stoning adulterers? What exactly is going to happen in the world to come? What is God's standard?

We are part of Abraham's covenant.

Galatians 3:6-9

" just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." **Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.** And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand**, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." **So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham."**

NB Abraham had the gospel preached to him. Abraham understood much of the gospel.

Galatians 3:13-14

" Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that **the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."**

Galatians 3:15-18

Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: **Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.** (NB THE TERMS OF ABRAHAM'S COVENANT CANNOT BE CHANGED. IT WAS

SEALED.) **Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made.** He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, (WHICH TOOK PLACE AT MT SINAI) **cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ,** that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise."

Abraham's covenant still applies ... still applies.

Galatians 3:26-29

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And **if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."**

We are participants according to the promises given to Abraham. To inherit whatever God promised to Abraham.

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; **for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."**

Abraham was never that interested in extra land or extra cattle ... he waited and looked with eager expectation for THE CITY (whose builder and architect is God) ... the Heavenly Jerusalem ... where he could live with God eternally. Guess what? That's our hope too! That's God's hope for mankind.

Isaac was the son of promise ... with whom the covenant was also ratified (a type of Jesus Christ).

Genesis 26:2-5

Then the Lord appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and **bless you**; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and **I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father**. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; **and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.**" (The Ten Commandments ... God's standards to live by).

Four hundred years later, God is taking Israel out of Egypt and is about to make an offer of the same covenant to them ... an extension of Abraham's covenant ... but ... it didn't work out.

Exodus 19:3-8

" And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, **if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people**; for all the earth is Mine. And **you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**' (It didn't happen!!) These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord."

Exodus 19:17-25

" And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when

the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. Then the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the Lord, and many of them perish. Also let the priests who come near the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them."

But Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.' "

Then the Lord said to him, "Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest He break out against them." So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them."

Exodus 20:1

"And God spoke all these words, saying:" NB: **God spoke the Ten Commandments.**

Exodus 20:18-21

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then **they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."**

And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was."

Did Israel become a Kingdom of Priests? No! They never became a Kingdom of Priests because the covenant never got enacted. The Levites were made priests led by Aaron and his 4 sons. What happened to the Kingdom of Priests? It didn't take place because the people backed away.

God gave the Ten Commandments to Abraham. These extra laws were added later. The Sinai Covenant is not part of the Abraham Covenant. God made what we call The Old Covenant.

Exodus 34:1-4

And the Lord said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain."

So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone."

Exodus 34:28

" So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments." (THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE THE COVENANT ... NOT THE SINAI COVENANT ... NOT THE OLD COVENANT).

Deuteronomy 4:11-13

" "Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. And the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice. So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone."

Deuteronomy 5:22

" "These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud

voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me." (The Ten Commandments are The Covenant). Then ... The tablets (with The Ten Commandments) were placed in The Ark of The Covenant.

Deuteronomy 10:1-5

"At that time the Lord said to me, 'Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain and make yourself an ark of wood. And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.'

"So I made an ark of acacia wood, hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, having the two tablets in my hand. And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the Lord had spoken to you in the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the Lord gave them to me. Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and there they are, just as the Lord commanded me."

Hebrews 9:2-5

" For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part (room), in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, (picturing Jesus Christ) Aaron's rod that budded, (representing God's Holy Spirit) and the tablets of the covenant(which is God's eternal standard of living); and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail."

Revelation 11:15-19

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our

Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,
The One who is and who was and who is to come,
Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.
The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come,
And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,
And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,
And those who fear Your name, small and great,
And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."

There are other laws ... hundreds of them ... what about them? Do they apply to us? Are they for us today? Some Messianic people think that they are. Even some in The Churches of God today ... such as the Hebrew roots groups. The Jewish scribes think there are 613 commandments that "God gave us in Torah". There are all sorts of commandments. Are they for us? They came from God through Moses. But ... these are not for us!! They were added because of the peoples disobedience ... and are written IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW.

Deuteronomy 28:58-61

" "If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, then the Lord will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses. Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in **this Book of the Law**, will the Lord bring upon you until you are destroyed."

The Ten Commandments were written on stone and kept in the Ark of The Covenant. This Book of the Law was written on animal skins. That Book of

The Law contains the 613 Commandments. It was not put inside the Ark of The Covenant.

Deuteronomy 29:1

"These are the words of the covenant which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb."

Deuteronomy 29:9-15

" Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.

"All of you stand today before the Lord your God: your leaders and your tribes and your elders and your officers, all the men of Israel, your little ones and your wives—also the stranger who is in your camp, from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water— that you may enter into covenant with the Lord your God, and into His oath, which the Lord your God makes with you today, that He may establish you today as a people for Himself, and that He may be God to you, just as He has spoken to you, and just as He has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

"I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, but with him who stands here with us today before the Lord our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today"

Deuteronomy 29:20-21

" "The Lord would not spare him; for then the anger of the Lord and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the Lord would blot out his name from under heaven. And the Lord would separate him from all the tribes of Israel for adversity, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this Book of the Law,"

A different covenant ... not The Ten Commandments.

Deuteronomy 30:9-10

" The Lord your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the Lord will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

Deuteronomy 31:24-26

" So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying: **"Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there as a witness against you;"**

The Book of The Law was BESIDE the Ark of The Covenant ... NOT INSIDE IT.

How many laws do you need to give to someone who is humble and wants to please you ... with their heart ... 613? No. Not unless you are dealing with a bunch of rebels ... they were to stop people from destroying themselves. These people didn't want to go God's way. Israel were rebellious from the first to the last. They were a witness against them. They were for a carnal nation.

Deuteronomy 31:26-29

" **"Take this Book of the Law**, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, **that it may be there as a witness against you;** for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. If today, while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the Lord, then how much more after my death? Gather to me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing and call heaven and earth to witness against them. **For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil**

will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands.”

Galatians 3:13-14

" Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), **that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**"

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Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. **Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made.** He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. **And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.** For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise."

The laws in The Book of The Law were added until Jesus came. They are not for us.

Galatians 3:19

What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; (IT WAS ONLY TEMPORARY) and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator."

Galatian 3:23-25

"But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

So the Sinai Covenant is over. It has served its purpose. And we are back to the covenant given to Abraham.

Galatians 4:21-31

"Two Covenants"

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. **For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.** ... Now **we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.** But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? **"Cast out the bondwoman and her son,** (You can't have the Sinai Covenant with the Abrahamic Covenant) **for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."** **So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free."**

Hebrews 12:18-24

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the

spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."

We don't need the Sinai Covenant with its 613 commandments. Let us remain true to the real Covenant.

The terms of The Covenant to come is the standard of the world to come